#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMARECEIVED

ROMIE HARRIS, JR., AMY HARRIS, § RUBY FRANCIS FOWLER, MARY LOIS GREEN, JAMES THOMAS, **LULA THOMAS and JANIE** BUFORD, **Plaintiffs** ٧.

 $\phi$ PACIFICARE LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY, ROBERT D. BELL, ELIZABETH R. CLARK, WILLIE C. TILLIS, and Fictitious Defendants A through Z, those corporations, partnerships, LLC's, individuals or other entities who conduct contributed to the damages claimed herein whose names are not vet known to Plaintiffs but will be substituted by amendment when ascertained. Defendants

200b OCT 20 P 3: 04

ECORA P. HACKETT, CLK U.S. DISTRICT COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT ALA

CIVIL ACTION NO. 2:06CU956-1D

#### NOTICE OF REMOVAL TO THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

#### TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW PacifiCare Life and Health Insurance Company (hereinafter "PacifiCare" or "Movant"), and files this Notice of Removal and would respectfully show the Court as follows:

I.

#### PROCEDURAL BACKGROUND

Movant is a Defendant in the above-entitled action, until now pending in 1. the Circuit Court of Bullock County, Alabama, Case No. CV-06-91, styled "Romie Harris, Jr., Amy Harris, Ruby Francis Fowler, Mary Lois Green, James Thomas, Lula Thomas, and Janie Buford v. PacifiCare Life and Health Insurance Company, Robert D. Bell, Elizabeth R. Clark, Willie C. Tillis and Fictitious Defendants A through Z." Defendant PacifiCare was served with Plaintiffs' Complaint on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September, 2006. This Notice of Removal is filed within thirty (30) days of receipt of Plaintiffs' Complaint by PacifiCare, and within thirty (30) days of service of the Complaint on any Defendant.

II.

#### FACTUAL BACKGROUND AND BASIS FOR REMOVAL

- 2. In their Complaint, Plaintiffs seek to recover compensatory and punitive damages against PacifiCare and the insurance broker co-defendants for their alleged actions to contact Plaintiffs, misrepresent PacifiCare's Secure Horizons Direct "Private Fee For Service" ("PFFS") Medicare product, dis-enroll Plaintiffs from their existing Medicare coverage, redirect Medicare premiums to PacifiCare, and restrict Plaintiffs' Medicare coverage and benefits. Plaintiffs' Complaint alleges the following causes of action against PacifiCare: (1) fraud (Count I), (2) unjust enrichment (Count II), (3) negligent infliction of emotional distress (Count III), (4) wantonness (Count IV), and (5) outrage (Count V). See Plaintiffs' Complaint, pp. 3-5 (Exh. B hereto). In addition to damages, Plaintiffs seek disgorgement of premiums from PacifiCare and entry of a permanent injunction to enjoin Defendants from contacting other persons in Bullock County, Alabama. (Id. at ¶ 29).
- 3. To the extent that Plaintiffs seek to recover damages from PacifiCare, Plaintiffs necessarily seek such damages as alleged enrollees in a Medicare Part C Medicare Advantage ("MA") plan offered by PacifiCare in the form of its Secure

Horizons Direct PFFS Plan (the "PFFS Plan"). Accordingly, this action may be removed to this Court by Defendant PacifiCare pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1441(b), because Plaintiffs' claims for relief arise under the laws of the United States, specifically the Medicare Act, 42 U.S.C. §1395w-21-w28, as amended by the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 ("MMA"). Plaintiffs' state law claims all relate to standards established under the Medicare Act/MMA, and are thus superceded and preempted by the Medicare Act/MMA pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1395w-26(b)(3) (2006). This is true for the following separate and independent reasons.

4. First, Plaintiffs' primary allegation is one of fraud through misrepresentation of the benefits, requirements, terms, and conditions of enrollment in PacifiCare's PFFS Plan. (Plaintiffs' Complaint at ¶¶ 15, 17, 19, 22-26, 35) (Exh. B hereto). This allegation directly implicates standards set forth under the Medicare Act/MMA for enrollment, including Pacificare's marketing efforts and materials. U.S.C. § 1395w-101(b)(1)(A), (B)(vi) (2006); 42 C.F.R. § 423.50 (2005). Second, Plaintiffs complain that their benefits and coverage were reduced, medical care was denied to them under the PacifiCare PFFS plan, and that large medical bills which have not been paid by PacifiCare have resulted. (Plaintiffs' Complaint at ¶¶ 14-19) (Exh. B hereto). These allegations all relate to the extent or quality of benefits promised or received and claims paid or denied, and, therefore, Plaintiffs in effect complain of benefit or coverage determinations governed by the Medicare Act/MMA. Plaintiffs' allegation of reduced benefits and denial of medical care implicates the grievance and appeals process established under the Medicare Act/MMA. 42 C.F.R. §§ 423.560, 423.566, 423.568, 423.570, 423.580-90, 423.600-04, 423.610, 423.630 (2005).Accordingly, Plaintiffs' state law claims, which all relate to PacifiCare's marketing efforts and/or materials, the extent or quality of benefits or coverage promised or provided to Plaintiffs, and Medicare-related grievance and appeal procedures, are preempted under the Medicare Act/MMA. Accordingly, this Court has original jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1331. Furthermore, this Court has supplemental or pendant jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' state law claims, if any.

III.

#### FEDERAL QUESTION JURISDICTION

5. The Court has jurisdiction to hear this matter pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331, because this case involves a federal question. Specifically, Plaintiffs' claims arise under and are completely preempted by federal law, specifically the Medicare Act/MMA. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a), the Court has supplemental jurisdiction over Plaintiffs' state law claims, if any.

IV.

#### COMPLIANCE WITH PROCEDURAL REQUIREMENTS

- 6. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(b), this Notice of Removal is being filed within thirty (30) days after receipt by PacifiCare of a copy of the first pleading, motion, order, or other paper from which it could be ascertained that the case is one which is removable.
- Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(c), PacifiCare has given written notice of 7. filing of this Notice of Removal to Plaintiffs and has filed a copy of this Notice of Removal with the clerk of the Circuit Court of Bullock County, Alabama, as shown in the attached Exhibit "A."
- 8. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), copies of all processes, pleadings, and orders filed with the state court, together with an index of such documents, are attached hereto as Exhibit "B."

9. Defendant Willie C. Tillis consents to this removal, as shown in the

Consent to Removal attached as Exhibit "C." Defendant Robert D. Bell ("Bell") has not

been served. Plaintiffs' service on Defendant Elizabeth Clark ("Clark") was returned

"unclaimed" and, accordingly, she has not been served. Accordingly, consent from Bell

and Clark is not required for this removal.

10. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a), also attached hereto as part of Exhibit

"B" is a copy of the docket sheet in the state court action.

11. Pursuant to Order of the U.S. District Court, Middle District of

Alabama, Civil Misc. No. 3047, attached hereto as Exhibit "D" is a Corporate Disclosure

Statement.

12. Trial has not commenced in the Circuit Court of Bullock County, Alabama.

٧.

CONCLUSION

13. Because Plaintiffs' claims, as set out in their Complaint, state a federal

question, Movant desires and is entitled to remove said cause from the Circuit Court of

Bullock County, Alabama to the United States District Court for the Middle District of

Alabama. Movant also requests any other relief to which it is entitled.

DATED:

October 20, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip H. Butler (BUT007) George B. Harris (HAR138) William C. McGowin (MCG040)

#### OF COUNSEL

Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP
The Alabama Center for Commerce
401 Adams Avenue, Suite 780
Montgomery, AL 36104
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Texas State Bar No. 24002040
Cedric D. Scott
Texas State Bar No. 24013474
JACKSON WALKER L.L.P.
1401 McKinney, Suite 1900
Houston, Texas 77010
Phone: 713-752-4200

Phone: 713-752-420 Fax: 713-752-4221

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT PACIFICARE LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that a true and correct copy of this Notice of Removal has been furnished to all parties and counsel of record as listed below, by certified mail, return receipt requested, in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure this 20th day of October, 2006.

L. Cooper Rutland, Jr. Rutland & Braswell, L.L.C. 208 N. Prairie Street P.O. Box 551 Union Springs, Alabama 36089

Attorney for Plaintiffs

Willie C. Tillis 306 Mullins Street Opp, Alabama 36467

NOTICE OF REMOVAL TO THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

4387757v.4

## **EXHIBIT "A"**

#### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BULLOCK COUNTY, ALABAMA

ROMIE HARRIS, JR., AMY HARRIS,  $\phi$ RUBY FRANCIS FOWLER, MARY LOIS GREEN, JAMES THOMAS, **LULA THOMAS and JANIE** BUFORD, Plaintiffs

V.

PACIFICARE LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY, ROBERT D. BELL, ELIZABETH R. CLARK, WILLIE C. TILLIS, and Fictitious Defendants A through Z, those corporations, partnerships, LLC's, individuals or other entities who conduct contributed to the damages claimed herein whose names are not vet known to Plaintiffs but will be substituted by amendment when ascertained. Defendants

Case No. CV-06-91

#### NOTICE OF FILING NOTICE OF REMOVAL

#### TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF THIS COURT:

Please take notice that Defendant PacifiCare Life and Health Insurance Company has on this date filed a Notice of Removal of this civil action to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama in the above-styled and numbered cause which was until now pending in the Circuit Court of Bullock County, Alabama, thereby removing this case to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama. A true and correct copy of said Notice of Removal is attached hereto as Exhibit "A."

DATED: October 20, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip H. Butler (BUT007)
George B. Harris (HAR138)
William C. McGowin (MCG040)

#### OF COUNSEL

Bradley Arant Rose & White LLP
The Alabama Center for Commerce
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Montgomery, AL 36104
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Paula Denney
Texas State Bar No. 05746950
John K. Edwards
Texas State Bar No. 24002040
Cedric D. Scott
Texas State Bar No. 24013474
JACKSON WALKER L.L.P.
1401 McKinney, Suite 1900
Houston, Texas 77010
Phone: 713-752-4200
Fax: 713-752-4221

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT PACIFICARE LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that a true and correct copy of this Notice of Filing of Notice of Removal has been furnished to all parties and counsel of record as listed below, by certified mail, return receipt requested, in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure this 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2006.

L. Cooper Rutland, Jr. Rutland & Braswell, L.L.C. 208 N. Prairie Street P.O. Box 551 Union Springs, Alabama 36089

Attorney for Plaintiffs

Willie C. Tillis 306 Mullins Street Opp, Alabama 36467

## **EXHIBIT "B"**

AVS0351	CV 2006 000091.00
	JUDGE: HON. BURT SMITHART
ALABAMA JUDICIA CASE ACTION CIRCUIT CI	L DATA CENTER SUMMARY VIL
	COUNTY
ROMIE HARRIS ET AL. VS PACIFICARE LIFE FILED: 09/21/2006 TYPE: NEGLIGENCE-GENE	AND HEALTHCARE INS. CO ET AL. RAL TYPE TRIAL: JURY TRACK:
************************************	CA DATE: PAYMENT:
PLAINTIFF 001: ROMIE HARRIS JR. 323 S. PRAIRIE STREET	ATTORNEY: RUTLAND L COOPER JR
UNION SPRINGS, AL 36089 PHONE: (334)000-0000 ENTERED: 09/21/2006 ISSUED: SERVED: ANSWERED:	-0000 UNION SPRINGS AL 360 TYPE: (334)738-4770 JUDGEMENT:
PLAINTIFF 002: AMY HARRIS 323 S. PRAIRIE STREET	ATTORNEY: RUTLAND L COOPER JR
UNION SPRINGS, AL 36089 PHONE: (334)000-0000 ENTERED: 09/21/2006 ISSUED: SERVED: ANSWERED:	-0000 UNION SPRINGS AL 360 TYPE: (334)738-4770 JUDGEMENT:
PLAINTIFF 003: RUBY FRANCIS FOWLER 1731 PEACHBURG RD	ATTORNEY: RUTLAND L COOPER JR
UNION SPRINGS, AL 36089 PHONE: (334)000-0000 ENTERED: 09/21/2006 ISSUED: SERVED: ANSWERED:	-0000 UNION SPRINGS AL 360 TYPE: (334)738-4770 JUDGEMENT:
PLAINTIFF 004: MARY LOIS GREEN 1731 PEACHBURG RD.	ATTORNEY: RUTLAND L COOPER JR
UNION SPRINGS, AL 36089 PHONE: (334)000-0000 ENTERED: 09/21/2006 ISSUED: SERVED: ANSWERED:	-0000 UNION SPRINGS AL 360 TYPE: (334)738-4770 JUDGEMENT:
PLAINTIFF 005: JAMES THOMAS 611 4TH STREET	ATTORNEY: RUTLAND L COOPER JR
UNION SPRINGS, AL 36089 PHONE: (334)000-0000 ENTERED: 09/21/2006 ISSUED: SERVED: ANSWERED:	TYPE: (334) 738-4770 JUDGEMENT:
PLAINTIFF 006: LULA THOMAS 611 4TH STREET	ATTORNEY: RUTLAND L COOPER JR RUT010 P. O. BOX 551
וואדראו מממדאר כי אני אברסס	-0000 UNION SPRINGS AL 360 TYPE: (334)738-4770 JUDGEMENT:
PLAINTIFF 007: JANIE BUFORD 112 P AVENUE	ATTORNEY: RUTLAND L COOPER JR
UNION SPRINGS, AL 36089 PHONE: (334)000-0000 ENTERED: 09/21/2006 ISSUED: SERVED: ANSWERED:	-0000 UNION SPRINGS AL 360 TYPE: (334) 738-4770 JUDGEMENT:
RAF 09/21/2006	CV 2006 000091.00

AVS0351		CV	2006	000091.00
	JUDGE: H	ON.	BURT	SMITHART
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BULLOCK COUNTY				
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DEFENDANT 001: PACIFICARE LIFE AND HEALTH INS. C C/O THE CORPORATION CO. ATTORN 2000 INTERSTATE PK. DR MONTGOMERY, AL 36109-0000 PHONE: (334)000-0000 ENTERED: 09/21/2006 ISSUED: 09/21/2006 TYPE: SERVED: 100 ANSWERED: JUDGE	O. EY:			
PHONE: (334)000-0000  ENTERED: 09/21/2006 ISSUED: 09/21/2006 TYPE:  SERVED: 432 06 ANSWERED: JUDGE	CERTIFI	ED	·	
DEFENDANT 002: BELL ROBERT D. 208 NORTH CLEVELAND ST ATTORN	EY:			
ALBANY, GA 31701-0000 PHONE: (334)000-0000 ENTERED: 09/21/2006 ISSUED: 09/21/2006 TYPE: SERVED: ANSWERED: JUDGE	CERTIFI MENT:	ED		
DEFENDANT 003: 'CLARK ELIZABETH R. 505 WISTERIA PLACE ATTORN	EY:			
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35216-0000 PHONE: (334)000-0000 ENTERED: 09/21/2006 ISSUED: 09/21/2006 TYPE: SERVED: ANSWERED: JUDGE	CERTIFI MENT:	ED		
DEFENDANT 004: TILLIS WILLIE CLYDE 306 MULLINS STREET ATTORN	EY:			
OPP, AL 36467-0000 PHONE: (334)000-0000 ENTERED: 09/21/2006 ISSUED: 09/21/2006 TYPE: SERVED: 906 ANSWERED: JUDGE	CERTIFI	ED		
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10/2/06 Dg #3 returned. Unclaimed.				
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BULLICK COUNTY

DATE OF RECEIPT: 09/21/2006 TIME: 11:27:50

RECEIPT FOR CASE: CV 2006 000091 00

RECEIVED FROM: RUTLANE L COUPER JE

ROMIE HARRIE ET AL. VS PACIFICAPE LIFE AND HEALTHCARE INE. CO ET AL.

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\$400.40 \$324.00 \$100.00

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CHECK AMOUNT \$1,024,00

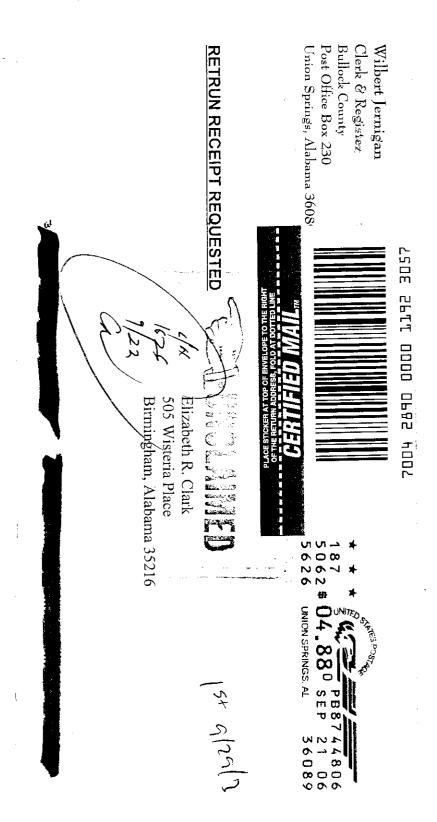
AVS0352	CASE: CV 2006 000091.00 JUDGE: HON. BURT SMITHART
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IN TH	CIRCUIT CIVIL E CIRCUIT COURT OF BULLOCK COUNTY
ROMI FILED:	E HARRIS ET AL. VS PACIFICARE LIFE AND HEALTHCARE INS. CO ET AL. 09/21/2006 TYPE: NEGLIGENCE-GENERAL TYPE TRIAL: JURY TRACK:
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#### AVS0353

### ALABAMA JUDICIAL DATA CENTER FEE SHEET CTRCUIT CTVII. CASE:CV 2006 000091.00

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UNION S	PRINGS , A	L 36089			
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	nment Other	i iist beleilda	Government Other
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TORTS: PERSONAL INJURY		OTHER CIVIL FILINGS  MSXX - Birth/	i (cont'd) /Death Certificate Modification/Bond Forfeiture Appeal/
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R	REMANDED	T TRANSFERRE	D FROM
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HAS JURY TRIAL BEEN	N DEMANDED? 🗹 Y		te: Checking "Yes" does not constitute a demand for a rtial. (See Rules 38 and 39, Ala.R.Civ.P., for procedure)
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SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
<ul> <li>■ Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.</li> <li>■ Print your name and address on the reverse</li> </ul>	A. Signature
so that we can return the card to you.  Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.	B. Received by ( Printed Name) C. Date of Delivery
1. Article Addressed to:	D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No
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Birmingham, Alabama 35216	Service Type     Certified Mall    Express Mall    Expres
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PS Form 3811, February 2004 Domestic F	Domestic Return Receipt 102595-02-M-1540

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1. Article Addressed to:	D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No
Claude Delbridge 500 Eastdale Rd #E9	
riomsomery, AL 36117	3. Service Type
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2. Article Number	
(Transfer from service label)	
PS Form 3811 February 2004	
	Domestic Return Receipt

Circuit Court P.O. Box 230

Union Springs, AL 36089

Claude Delbridge 500 Eastdale Rd #E9

Montgomery, AL 36117

BIRMINGHAM AL 35203

3611742020-89 0008

Case 2:06-cv-00956-ID-TFM Document 1-3 Filed 10/20/2006 Page 12 of 27 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BULLOCK COUNTY, ALABAMA Plaintiff: State Farm Bank Claude Delbridge Defendant: CV068 500 Eastdale Rd #E9 ALIAS Montgomery, Alabard 16H7
SS# xxx-xx-9318 PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY: SEP 0 8 2006 Halcomb & Wertheim, P.C. 2101 6th Avenue North, Suite 1150 P.O. Box 12005 Birmingham, AL. 35202-2005 **SUMMONS** TO ANY SHERIFF OR PERSON AUTHORIZED BY RULE 4.1(b)(1) OR (b)(2) OF THE ALABAMA RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE TO EFFECT SERVICE IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA: You are hereby commanded to serve this summons and statement of claim upon the defendant(s) named in this action and to make proper return to this Court. RETURN OF SERVICE: I received this summons and complaint on \_\_/\_\_/ and served Defendant \_\_\_\_\_ by delivering a copy of the summons and complaint to him/her. Comments/Notes: Date Served: Process Server: NOTICE TO DEFENDANT THIS COMPLAINT IS IMPORTANT AND YOU MUST TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS. YOU MUST MAIL OR HAND-DELIVER A COPY OF A WRITTEN ANSWER EITHER ADMITTING OR DENYING EACH ALLEGATION IN THE COMPLAINT TO THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY WHOSE ADDRESS IS LISTED ABOVE. YOU MUST ANSWER THIS COMPLAINT WITHIN 30 DAYS AFTER YOU RECEIVE THESE PAPERS OR A JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED BY DEFAULT FOR THE AMOUNT SUED FOR. FILE THE ORIGINAL OF YOUR ANSWER WITH THE CLERK OF THE COURT. COMPLAINT Count 1 Plaintiff State Farm Bank claims defendant Claude Delbridge owes the Plaintiff the sum of \$20,056.49 due by Breach of Contract, or in the alternative, Open Account, plus interest calculated from December 21, 2005 at the contract rate of 8.740% through entry of judgment, plus a reasonable attorney's fee in the amount of \$.00 pursuant to the contract made the basis of this action, less remittitur of \$.00 for a total judgment of \$20,056.49 plus interest, less remittitur for any payments made after August 25, 2006. Plaintiff also claims from each defendant court costs in the sum of \$233.92. NOTE: The total amount of court costs may be more than this amount when the case is finally settled. The Clerk will inform you of any additional costs at the close of the case. best M. Geringan RMF Clerk: W. McCollum Halcomb (HAL030) Address: Post Office Box 230 Jeffrey H. Wertheim (WER007) Union Springs, AL 36089 India A. Ramey (SMI246) 334-738-2280 Plaintiff's Attorneys Serve by Certified Mail pursuant to Rule 4.1(c) ARCP 205-251-0007 File No: 06-10136-0

SENDED, COMPLETE THE SECTION	COMPLETE THE SECTION ON PERMIT
SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
<ul> <li>Complete item, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.</li> <li>Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.</li> <li>Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.</li> </ul>	A. Signature  X
Article Addressed to:	D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No
Willie Clyde Tillis	Å
306 Mullins Street	CV-06-91
Opp, Alabama 36467	3. Service Type  Certified Mail Express Mail Registered Return Receipt for Merchandise Insured Mail C.O.D.  4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee)
	4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) Yes
2. Article Number 7004	2890 0000 1192 3064
PS Form 3811, February 2004 Domestic Re	turn Receipt 102595-02-M-1540

UNITED STATES POSTAL TRVICE



Fi ass Mail Po. ge & Fees Paid USPS Permit No. G-10

Sender: Please print your name, address, and ZIP+4 in this box

Wilbert Jernigan Bullock County Circuit Clerk Post Office Box 230 Union Springs, Alabama 36089

B002

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
<ul> <li>Complete item, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.</li> <li>Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.</li> <li>Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.</li> </ul>	A. Signature  X Downy Bell Agent Addressee  B. Received by (Printed Name) C. Date of Delivery  On my Bell 9-25-06  D. Is delivery address different from item 1? Yes
1. Article Addressed to:	If YES, enter delivery address below:
Robert D. Bell 208 North Cleveland Street	CV-06-91
	3. Service Type  Cretified Mail Registered Recipt for Merchandise Insured Mail C.O.D.
208 North Cleveland Street	3. Service Type  ☐ Certified Mail ☐ Registered ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise
208 North Cleveland Street	3. Service Type  Certified Mail Registered Return Receipt for Merchandise C.O.D.

UNITED STATES POSTAL TRVICE



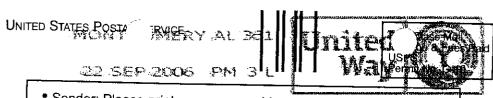
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Sender: Please print your name, address, and ZIP+4 in this box

Wilbert Jernigan Bullock County Circuit Clerk \
Post Office Box 230 Union Springs, Alabama 36089

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SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
Obmplete items, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.  Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.  Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.  1. Article Addressed to:  Pacificare Life and Health Insurance Co. c/o The Corporation Company 2000 Interstate Park Dr. Suite 204	A. Signature  X. Drous  Agent Addressee  B. Received by (Printed Name)  C. Date of Delivery 1/22/06  D. Is delivery address different from item 1?  Yes If YES, enter delivery address below:  No
Montgomery, Alabama 36109	3. Service Type  ☐ Certified Mail ☐ Express Mail ☐ Registered ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise ☐ Insured Mail ☐ C.O.D.  4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) ☐ Yes
2. Article Number 7004 2890	0000 1192 3033
PS Form 3811, February 2004 Domestic Retu	urn Receipt 102595-02-M-1540



Sender: Please print your name, address, and ZIP+4 in this box

Wilbert Jernigan Bullock County Circuit Clerk Post Office Box 230 Union Springs, Alabama 36089

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# IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BULLOCK COUNTY, ALABAMAN IN OFFICE

ROMIE HARRIS, JR., AMY HARRIS, RUBY FRANCIS FOWLER, MARY	)	SEP 2 1 2006
LOIS GREEN, JAMES THOMAS,	)	
LULA THOMAS and JANIE BUFORD,	) )	CLERK-REGISTER, BULLUCK CO., ALA.
Plaintiffs.	)	
vs.	)	CASE NO. CV-06-91
PACIFICARE LIFE AND HEALTH	<i>)</i>	
INSURANCE COMPANY, ROBERT D.	)	
BELL, ELIZABETH R. CLARK,	)	
WILLIE C. TILLIS and Fictitious	)	
Defendants A through Z, those corporations,	)	
partnerships, LLC's, individuals or other	)	
entities whose conduct contributed to the	)	
damages claimed herein whose names are	)	
not yet known to Plaintiffs but will be	)	
substituted by amendment when	)	
ascertained.	)	
	)	
Defendants.		

#### <u>COMPLAINT</u>

#### **Parties**

- 1. Plaintiff Romie and Amy Harris are adult resident citizens of Bullock County, Alabama whose address us 323 South Prairie Street, Union Springs, Alabama 36089.
- 2. Plaintiff Ruby Francis Fowler is an adult resident citizen of Bullock County, Alabama whose address is 1731 Peachburg Road, Union Springs, Alabama 36089.
- 3. Plaintiff Mary Lois Green is an adult resident citizen of Bullock County, Alabama whose address is 1731 Peachburg Road, Union Springs, Alabama 36089.
- 4. Plaintiffs James and Lula Thomas are adult resident citizens of Bullock County, Alabama whose address is 611 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Union Springs, Alabama 36089.
- 5. Plaintiff Janie Buford is an adult resident citizen of Bullock County, Alabama whose address is 112 P Avenue, Union Springs, Alabama 36089.

- 6. Defendant Pacificare Life and Health Insurance Company, hereinafter referred to as "Pacificare", is an Indiana corporation doing business by agent in Bullock County, Alabama whose principal address is 3100 Lake Center Drive, Santa Ana, California 92704 and whose agent for service of process is The Corporation Company 2000 Interstate Park Drive Suite 204, Montgomery, Alabama 36109.
- 7. Defendant Robert D. Bell is an adult resident citizen of the State of Georgia whose address is 508 North Cleveland Street, Albany Georgia 31701 who at all times relevant hereto was acting as an agent for Defendant, Pacificare, within the line and scope of his employment.
- 8. Defendant Elizabeth R. Clark is an adult resident citizen of Birmingham, Alabama whose address is 505 Wisteria Place, Birmingham, Alabama 35216 who at all times relevant hereto was acting as an agent for Defendant, Pacificare, within the line and scope of her employment.
- 9. Defendant Willie Clyde Tillis is an adult resident citizen of Opp, Alabama, whose address is 306 Mullins Street, Opp, Alabama 36467 who at all times relevant hereto was acting as an agent for Defendant, Pacificare, within the line and scope of his employment.
- 10. Fictitious Defendants A through Z are those corporations, partnerships, LLC's, individuals or other entities whose conduct contributed to the damages claimed herein whose names are not yet known to Plaintiff but will be substituted by amendment when ascertained.
- 11. Plaintiff brings these claims under applicable Alabama State law and makes no claims involving Federal jurisdiction or which might raise a Federal question.
- 12. Plaintiffs' claims are made in the alternative as provided by Alabama Rules of Civil Procedure.

#### Facts

- 13. All Plaintiffs were at some point, in early 2006, enrolled in a program called Secure Horizons Direct which is described by Defendants as a "Private Fee for Service Health Plan".
- 14. All Defendants acted in concert with one another in an effort to contact all Medicare recipients in Bullock County, Alabama including Plaintiffs.
- 15. Defendants misrepresented to Plaintiffs that they were required to enroll with Secure Horizons Direct under the federal government's new prescription drug program.
- 16. Defendants and their agents, servants and employees lied to Plaintiffs and misrepresented the fact that what Defendants were actually doing was dis-enrolling Plaintiffs

from their Medicare coverage and enrolling them in Pacificare's Secure Horizons Direct Healthcare Program.

- 17. All Plaintiffs' benefits and healthcare coverage through Medicare was drastically restricted. In most cases medical care which Plaintiffs had been receiving for years was summarily denied by Pacificare.
- 18. Plaintiffs suffered physical and mental injury and distress when they could no longer receive vital healthcare from their longtime physicians and other healthcare specialists.
- 19. Plaintiffs went without necessary prescription drugs and home healthcare equipment that had previously been covered by Medicare.
- 20. Plaintiffs amassed large medical bills which they cannot afford to pay without their Medicare coverage which was redirected to Pacificare through Defendants' fraudulent conduct.
- 21. As a direct result of all Defendants' conduct Plaintiffs were injured and damages as aforesaid. Plaintiffs have suffered severe mental anguish and emotional distress and continue to suffer now and in the future. Their health has been compromised from a lack of care due to noncoverage by Defendants of claims that had heretofore been covered by Medicare.

#### **COUNT I** Fraud

- 22. Plaintiffs reallege all paragraphs of the complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 23. Defendants misrepresented themselves as signing up people for the government's new prescription drug program.
  - 24. Defendants' misrepresentations were mistaken, negligent, wanton and /or intentional.
- 25. Defendants' misrepresentations were material and Plaintiffs relied on those misrepresentations in signing up for Defendants' prescription drug program.
  - 26. As a proximate result Plaintiffs were damages as aforesaid.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment of all Defendants in such amounts of compensatory and punitive damages as a jury deems appropriate, plus costs.

#### **COUNT II Unjust Enrichment**

27. Plaintiffs reallege all paragraphs of the complaint as if fully set forth herein.

- 28. By fraudulently diverting Plaintiffs Medicare premiums to Defendants's Secure Horizons Direct Healthcare Program Defendants were unjustly enriched.
- 29. Plaintiffs seek disgorgement of all premiums paid by Plaintiffs and a permanent injunction against Defendant baring them from contacting others in Bullock County, plus costs.

#### **COUNT III Negligent Infliction of Emotional Distress**

- 30. Plaintiffs reallege all paragraphs of the complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 31. Defendants owed a duty to Plaintiffs to avoid placing Plaintiffs in a position where their healthcare needs would be compromised.
- 32. Defendants failed to protect Plaintiffs' healthcare by fraudulently changing Plaintiffs coverage to an inferior more expensive plan known as Secure Horizons Direct.
  - 33. As a proximate result Plaintiffs were damaged as aforesaid.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against all Defendants in such amounts of compensatory damages as a jury deems appropriate, plus costs.

#### **COUNT IV** Wantonness

- 34. Plaintiffs reallege all paragraphs of the complaint as if fully set forth herein.
- 35. Defendants' conduct was a calculated pattern of lies and misrepresentations designed to exploit the old and infirm for profit.
- 36. Defendants' conduct represents a practice by all Defendants that was intentional, reckless, wanton and willful.
  - 37. As a proximate result Plaintiffs were injured and damages as aforesaid.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against all Defendants in such amounts of compensatory and punitive damages as a jury deems appropriate, plus costs.

#### **COUNT V** Outrage

38. Plaintiffs reallege all paragraphs of the complaint as if fully set forth herein.

- 39. Defendants fraudulent conduct perpetrated against the elderly, crippled, sick, invalid, infirm and most vulnerable members of our society is a new low for the insurance industry.
- 40. This conduct is so reprehensible as to shock the conscience of any reasonable citizen of the State of Alabama.
- 41. As a proximate result of Defendants' outrageous conduct Plaintiffs were damages as previously aforesaid.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment of all Defendants in such amounts of compensatory and punitive damages as a jury deems reasonable, plus costs.

L. Cooper Rutland, Jr. (RUT010)

Attorney for Plaintiffs

OF COUNSEL:

RUTLAND & BRASWELL, L.L.C.

208 N. Prairie Street Post Office Box 551 Union Springs, Alabama 36089 Telephone (334) 738-4770 Fax (334) 738-4774

#### JURY DEMAND

PLAINTIFFS DEMAND A TRIAL BY STRUCK JURY ON ALL COUNTS OF THE COMPLAINT.

#### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BUILLOCK COUNTY ALABAMA

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT C	DOLLOCK COUNTY, ALADAMA
ROMIE HARRIS, JR., AMY HARRIS, RUBY FRANCIS FOWLER, MARY	FILED IN OFFICE
LOIS GREEN, JAMES THOMAS, LULA THOMAS and JANIE BUFORD,	SEP 2 1 2006
Plaintiffs.	CLERN-REGISTER, BULLOCK CO., ALA.
vs.	) CASE NO. CV-06 9
PACIFICARE LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY, et al., Defendants.	) )
CIV	IL SUMMONS
NOTICE TO: Pacificare Life and Health In c/o The Corporation Compar 2000 Interstate Park Drive, S Montgomery, Alabama 3610	uy Suite 204
-	his Summons is important and you must take immediate ney are required to mail or hand deliver a copy of a written tion in the Complaint to the Plaintiff's Attorney:
Rutland Post Union Spri	oper Rutland, Jr. & Braswell, L.L.C. Office Box 551 ings, Alabama 36089 34-738-4770
delivered to you or a Judgment by Default ma	ed within 30 days after this Summons and Complaint were as be entered against you for the money or other things the original of your Answer with the Clerk of this Court.
	HIS SUMMONS IS INITIATED UPON THE WRITTEN . PURSUANT TO RULE 4.1(c) OF THE ALABAMA
9  31 06 Date	Wilbert M. Gernigan by RMF Circuit Clerk
service by certified mail is hereby	REQUESTED HILL &
Date	L. Cooper Rutland, Jr.
RETURN OF SERVICE:	CIVIL ACTION NO. CV 2001-
CERIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT RECEIP	VED IN THIS OFFICE ON (DATE)
CERTIFICATION RECEIPT RECEIPT	The LATING OFFICE ON (DATE)

(Return receipt hereto attached).

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BULLOCK COUNTY, ALABAMA

ROMIE HARRIS, JR., AMY HARRIS, RUBY FRANCIS FOWLER, MARY LOIS GREEN, JAMES THOMAS,	FILED IN OFFICE	
LULA THOMAS and JANIE BUFORD,  Plaintiffs.	SEP 2 1 7006	
vs.	CASE NO. CV-06 9	
PACIFICARE LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY, et al., Defendants.	) )	
<u>Cr</u>	VIL SUMMONS	
NOTICE TO: Robert D. Bell 508 North Cleveland Street Albany Georgia 31701		
The Complaint which is attached to this Summons is important and you must take immediate action to protect your rights. You or your attorney are required to mail or hand deliver a copy of a written Answer, either admitting or denying each allegation in the Complaint to the Plaintiff's Attorney:		
L. Cooper Rutland, Jr. Rutland & Braswell, L.L.C. Post Office Box 551 Union Springs, Alabama 36089 334-738-4770		
delivered to you or a Judgment by Default 1	ered within 30 days after this Summons and Complaint were may be entered against you for the money or other things le the original of your Answer with the Clerk of this Court.	
	THIS SUMMONS IS INITIATED UPON THE WRITTEN R. PURSUANT TO RULE 4.1(c) OF THE ALABAMA	
9-21-06 Date	Wilbert M. Gernigan by RMF Circuit Clerk	
SERVICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL IS HEREB	Loop All	
Date	L. Cooper Rutland, Jr.	
RETURN OF SERVICE:	CIVIL ACTION NO. CV 2001	
CERIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT RECE (Return receipt hereto attached).	EIVED IN THIS OFFICE ON (DATE)	

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BULLOCK COUNTY, ALABAMA IN OFFICE ROMIE HARRIS, JR., AMY HARRIS, RUBY FRANCIS FOWLER, MARY SEP 2 1 2006 LOIS GREEN, JAMES THOMAS, LULA THOMAS and JANIE BUFORD, CLERK-REGISTER, BULLOCK CO., ALA. Plaintiffs. CASE NO. CV-06 9 VS. PACIFICARE LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY, et al., Defendants. CIVIL SUMMONS NOTICE TO: Elizabeth R. Clark 505 Wisteria Place Birmingham, Alabama 35216 The Complaint which is attached to this Summons is important and you must take immediate action to protect your rights. You or your attorney are required to mail or hand deliver a copy of a written Answer, either admitting or denying each allegation in the Complaint to the Plaintiff's Attorney: L. Cooper Rutland, Jr. Rutland & Braswell, L.L.C. Post Office Box 551 Union Springs, Alabama 36089 334-738-4770 The Answer must be mailed or delivered within 30 days after this Summons and Complaint were delivered to you or a Judgment by Default may be entered against you for the money or other things demanded in this Complaint. You must also file the original of your Answer with the Clerk of this Court. THE SERVICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL OF THIS SUMMONS IS INITIATED UPON THE WRITTEN REQUEST OF L. COOPER RUTLAND, JR. PURSUANT TO RULE 4.1(c) OF THE ALABAMA RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE. SERVICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL IS HEREBY REQUESTE Date Cooper Rutland. CIVIL ACTION NO. CV 2001-RETURN OF SERVICE:

CERIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT RECEIVED IN THIS OFFICE ON (DATE) (Return receipt hereto attached).

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF BULLOCK COUNTY, ALAPINED IN OFFICE

DOMEC HARRIE ID AMSCHARRIE	A 105 Mile Olivina
ROMIE HARRIS, JR., AMY HARRIS, RUBY FRANCIS FOWLER, MARY LOIS GREEN, JAMES THOMAS,	SEP 2 1 2006
LULA THOMAS and JANIE BUFORD,	CLERK-REGISTER, BUTLUBLA CO., ALA.
Plaintiffs.	)
VS.	) CASE NO. CV-06 91
PACIFICARE LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY, et al., Defendants.	) )
<u>CIVI</u>	<u>L SUMMONS</u>
NOTICE TO: Willie Clyde Tillis 306 Mullins Street Opp, Alabama 36467	
	is Summons is important and you must take immediate ey are required to mail or hand deliver a copy of a written ion in the Complaint to the Plaintiff's Attorney:
Rutland & Post ( Union Sprii	oper Rutland, Jr. & Braswell, L.L.C. Office Box 551 ngs, Alabama 36089 4-738-4770
delivered to you or a Judgment by Default ma	d within 30 days after this Summons and Complaint were y be entered against you for the money or other things the original of your Answer with the Clerk of this Court.
	IS SUMMONS IS INITIATED UPON THE WRITTEN PURSUANT TO RULE 4.1(c) OF THE ALABAMA
9 21 06 Date	Wilbert M. Gernigan by RMF Circuit Clerk
SERVICE BY CERTIFIED MAIL IS HEREBY  One of the service of the ser	REQUESTED.  L. Cooper Rutland, Jr.
RETURN OF SERVICE:	CIVIL ACTION NO. CV 2001-
CERIFIED MAIL RETURN RECEIPT RECEIV	'ED IN THIS OFFICE ON (DATE)

(Return receipt hereto attached).

# **EXHIBIT "C"**

#### UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

ROMIE HARRIS, JR., AMY HARRIS, ๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛๛ RUBY FRANCIS FOWLER, MARY LOIS GREEN, JAMES THOMAS, **LULA THOMAS and JANIE** BUFORD, **Plaintiffs** CIVIL ACTION NO. ٧. PACIFICARE LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY, ROBERT D. BELL, ELIZABETH R. CLARK, WILLIE C. TILLIS, and Fictitious Defendants A through Z, those corporations, partnerships, LLC's, individuals or other entities who conduct contributed to the damages claimed herein whose names are not vet known to Plaintiffs but will be substituted by amendment when ascertained. Defendants

#### NOTICE OF CONSENT TO REMOVAL BY DEFENDANT WILLIE C. TILLIS

COMES NOW Defendant Wille C. Tillis, and reserving all rights to respond to this lawsuit, consents to the removal of this action from the Circuit Court of Bullock County, Alabama, to the United States District Court for the Middle District of Alabama. Dated this 20 day of October, 2006.

Respectfully submitted.

Willie C. Tilles

WILLIE C. TILLIS

NOTICE OF CONSENT TO REMOVAL - Solo Page 4397993v.1 128813/00137